

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

MEDLEN AND CARROLL
Attn. Casimir, David A.
101 Howard Street, Suite 305
San Francisco, CA 94105
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2009

MEDLEN & CARROLL

(PCT Rule 44.3) 17 2009

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

17/03/2009

RECEIVED

Applicant's or agent's file reference

DIBIS-0080WO 13420

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

MAR 18 2009

International application No.

PCT/US2006/040747

International filing date
(day/month/year)

17/10/2006

Applicant

CASIMIR JONES, S.C.

ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Sandra Sonnenschmidt-Rogge

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments and any accompanying statement, under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the time of filing the amendments (and any statement) with the International Bureau, also file with the International Preliminary Examining Authority a copy of such amendments (and of any statement) and, where required, a translation of such amendments for the procedure before that Authority (see Rules 55.3(a) and 62.2, first sentence). For further information, see the Notes to the demand form (PCT/IPEA/401).

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, the written opinion of the International Searching Authority will, except in certain cases where the International Preliminary Examining Authority did not act as International Searching Authority and where it has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b), be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority. If a demand is made, the applicant may submit to the International Preliminary Examining Authority a reply to the written opinion together, where appropriate, with amendments before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 43bis.1(c)).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference DIBIS-0080WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US2006/040747	International filing date (day/month/year) 17/10/2006	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 17/10/2005
Applicant ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 9 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:



the international application in the language in which it was filed



a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☒

With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐

Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box No. II)

3. ☒

Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No. III)

4. With regard to the **title**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. _____



as suggested by the applicant



as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure



as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention

b. ☒

none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2006/040747

Box No. I Nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence(s) (Continuation of item 1.b of the first sheet)

1. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

a. type of material

☒

a sequence listing

☐

table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

☒

on paper

☒

in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

☒

contained in the international application as filed

☐

filed together with the international application in electronic form

☒

furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purpose of search

2.

☒

In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

3. Additional comments:

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. C12Q1/70 C12Q1/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, EMBASE, BIOSIS, Sequence Search, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2005/012572 A (CJ CORP [KR]; PROTHEON CO LTD [KR]; LEE JANG YUN [KR]; KIM JAE SEUNG []) 10 February 2005 (2005-02-10) page 14, line 25 - page 15, line 2; examples 1-6; sequences 39, 40	1-21, 31-40, 51-58
Y	SPACKMAN ERICA ET AL: "Development of a real-time reverse transcriptase PCR assay for type A influenza virus and the avian H5 and H7 hemagglutinin subtypes" JOURNAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY, WASHINGTON, DC, US, vol. 40, no. 9, 1 September 2002 (2002-09-01), pages 3256-3260, XP002473651 ISSN: 0095-1137 tables 1,6	1-21, 31-39, 51-58

-/--

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

* & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 October 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/03/2009

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Seroz, Thierry

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>STONE BELINDA ET AL: "Rapid detection and simultaneous subtype differentiation of influenza A viruses by real time PCR"</p> <p>JOURNAL OF VIROLOGICAL METHODS, ELSEVIER BV, NL, vol. 117, no. 2, 1 May 2004 (2004-05-01), pages 103-112, XP002457249 ISSN: 0166-0934 page 107, right-hand column, paragraph 3 - page 109, left-hand column, last paragraph; figure 1</p>	<p>1-21, 31-39, 51-58</p>
Y	<p>WARD C L ET AL: "Design and performance testing of quantitative real time PCR assays for influenza A and B viral load measurement"</p> <p>JOURNAL OF CLINICAL VIROLOGY, ELSEVIER, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 29, no. 3, 1 January 2004 (2004-01-01), pages 179-188, XP002457250 ISSN: 1386-6532 page 180, right-hand column, last paragraph - page 181, right-hand column, paragraph 2</p>	<p>1-21, 31-39, 51-58</p>
Y	<p>DONOFRIO J C ET AL: "Detection of influenza A and B in respiratory secretions with the polymerase chain reaction"</p> <p>PCR METHODS & APPLICATIONS, COLD SPRING HARBOR LABORATORY PRESS, US, vol. 1, no. 4, 1 May 1992 (1992-05-01), pages 263-268, XP002457251 ISSN: 1054-9803 page 264, right-hand column, paragraph 3 - page 266, left-hand column, last paragraph</p>	<p>1-21, 31-39, 51-58</p>

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2006/040747

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-10 (all completely), 11-12 (all partially), 13-14 (all completely)
15-20 (all partially), 21 (completely), 31-38 (all partially)
39 (completely), 40 (partially), 51-58 (all partially)

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-10 (all completely), 11-12 (all partially), 13-14 (all completely), 15-20 (all partially), 21 (completely), 31-38 (all partially), 39 (completely), 40 (partially), 51-58 (all partially)

An oligonucleotide primer pair comprising a forward primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 125 and a reverse primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 126. Method for identifying an influenza virus. A kit comprising said pair of primers. A composition comprising these primers.

2. claims: 11-12 (all partially), 15-20 (all partially), 22 (partially), 23 (completely), 31-37 (all partially), 40-41, (all partially), 42 (completely), 51-56 (all partially), 70-78 (all completely)

An oligonucleotide primer pair comprising a forward primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 39 and a reverse primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 40. Method for identifying an influenza virus. A kit comprising said pair of primers.

3. claims: 11-12 (all partially), 15-20 (all partially), 22 (partially), 24 (completely), 31-37 (all partially), 40 (partially), 43 (completely), 51-56 (all partially), 60-69 (all completely)

An oligonucleotide primer pair comprising a forward primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 15 and a reverse primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 16. Method for identifying an influenza virus. A kit comprising said pair of primers. A composition comprising these primers.

4. claims: 11-12 (all partially), 15-20 (all partially), 22 (partially), 25 (completely), 31-37 (all partially), 40-41 (all partially), 44 (completely), 51-58 (all partially), 79-87 (all completely)

An oligonucleotide primer pair comprising a forward primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 55 and a reverse primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 56. Method for identifying an influenza virus. A kit comprising said pair of primers. A composition comprising these primers.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

5. claims: 11-12 (all partially), 15-20 (all partially), 22 (partially), 26 (completely), 31-37 (all partially), 40-41 (all partially), 45 (completely), 51-56 (all partially), 97-105 (all partially)

An oligonucleotide primer pair comprising a forward primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 123 and a reverse primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 124. Method for identifying an influenza virus. A kit comprising said pair of primers. A composition comprising these primers

6. claims: 12 (partially), 15-20 (all partially), 22 (partially), 27 (completely), 31-37 (all partially), 40-41 (all partially), 51-56 (all partially)

An oligonucleotide primer pair comprising a forward primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 19 and a reverse primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 20. Method for identifying an influenza virus. A kit comprising said pair of primers.

7. claims: 12 (partially), 15-20 (all partially), 28 (partially), 29 (completely), 31-37 (all partially), 47-48 (all partially), 49 (completely), 51-56 (all partially), 106-114 (all completely)

An oligonucleotide primer pair comprising a forward primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 5 and a reverse primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 6. Method for identifying an influenza virus. A kit comprising said pair of primers.

8. claims: 11-12 (all partially), 15-20 (all partially), 28 (partially), 30 (completely), 31-37 (all partially), 47-48 (all partially), 50 (completely), 51-56 (all partially), 115-123 (all completely)

An oligonucleotide primer pair comprising a forward primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 31 and a reverse primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 32. Method for identifying an influenza virus. A kit comprising said pair of primers.

9. claims: 11-12 (all partially), 15-20 (all partially), 22

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM - PCT/ISA/ 210

(partially), 31-37 (all partially),
40-41 (all partially), 46
(completely), 51-58 (all partially),
88-96 (all completely)

An oligonucleotide primer pair comprising a forward primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 119 and a reverse primer of sequence as in SEQ ID No 120. Method for identifying an influenza virus. A kit comprising said pair of primers. A composition comprising these primers.

10. claim: 59

A method for generating a base composition signature to identify at least one member of the orthomyxoviridae family.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/040747

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2005012572 A	10-02-2005	KR 20050015063 A	21-02-2005
<hr/>			
<p> The following table lists the patent documents cited in the search report. The first column indicates the patent document cited in the search report. The second column indicates the publication date of the patent document. The third column indicates the patent family member(s) of the patent document. The fourth column indicates the publication date of the patent document. </p>			

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2006/040747

International filing date (day/month/year)
17.10.2006

Priority date (day/month/year)
17.10.2005

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
INV. C12Q1/70 C12Q1/68

Applicant
ISIS PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☒ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Date of completion of
this opinion

see form
PCT/ISA/210

Authorized Officer

Seroz, Thierry

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7789



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2006/040747

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
 - ☐ a translation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)).
2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43bis.1(a))
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☒ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☒ on paper
 - ☒ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☒ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
 - ☒ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
4. ☒ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
5. Additional comments:

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of

☐ the entire international application

☒ claims Nos. 22-30,40-50,59-123

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international search (*specify*):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☒ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 22-30,40-50,59-123

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the sequence listing; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit:

☐ furnish a sequence listing on paper complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ furnish a sequence listing in electronic form complying with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions, and such listing was not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ pay the required late furnishing fee for the furnishing of a sequence listing in response to an invitation under Rules 13^{ter}.1(a) or (b).

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; the applicant did not, within the prescribed time limit, furnish such tables in electronic form complying with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-*bis* of the Administrative Instructions, and such tables were not available to the International Searching Authority in a form and manner acceptable to it.

☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in electronic form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-*bis* of the Administrative Instructions.

☒ See Supplemental Box for further details

Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☒ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees, the applicant has, within the applicable time limit:
- ☐ paid additional fees
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest and, where applicable, the protest fee
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid
 - ☒ not paid additional fees
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with
 - ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:
see separate sheet
4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
- ☐ all parts.
 - ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. 1-21,31-39, 51-58

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-21,31-39, 51-58</u>
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	<u>1-21,31-39, 51-58</u>
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	<u>1-21,31-39, 51-58</u>
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Additional remarks to item III

According to Rule 66.1(e) PCT claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not to be the subject of international preliminary examination.

As a consequence, this written opinion is established for claims 1-21, 31-39, 51-58, 69 and 115-123.

Additional remarks to item IV

This first written opinion was established on the application documents as filed and the written sequence listing pages 1-10, SEQ ID No 1 to SEQ ID No 15.

Art. 17(3)(a) and Rule 13 PCT require that the international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general novel and inventive concept, which is defined by special technical features that make a contribution over the cited prior art (cf. Guidelines 10.01-10.02).

The 10 identified inventions involve the technical feature of "a pair of primer that comprise a forward and a reverse primer member wherein the primer pair members further independently comprise sequences that are sufficiently complementary to a gene sequence of two or more bioagents belonging to the *orthomyxoviridae* family" as the sole common link. However, this feature cannot be acknowledged to be a special technical feature because it does not define a contribution over the prior art since such a pair of primers was already known in the art (see for instance Stone et al., 2004).

In the light of the prior art, the problem underlying the present application can be seen as the provision of further pairs of primers complementary to at least two bioagents belonging to the *orthomyxoviridae* family as well as a method for generating a base composition signature to identify at least one member of the *orthomyxoviridae* family.

Since no other technical feature can be distinguished which in the light of the prior art could be regarded as a special, common identical feature, the ISA is of the opinion that there is no single inventive concept underlying the plurality of different inventions of the present application in the sense of Rule 13(2) PCT.

Consequently, there is a lack of unity and the different inventions not belonging to a common inventive concept are formulated as the different subjects on the communication pursuant to Article 17(3) PCT, each of the inventions relating to a

solution to a distinct/special problem.

Additional remarks to item V

The present application discloses pairs of primers that are used in a method for identifying influenza viruses.

The following document (D) has been cited in the ISR and is referred to in this preliminary opinion; the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1: WO 2005/012572 A (CJ CORP [KR]; PROTHEON CO LTD [KR]; LEE JANG YUN [KR]; KIM JAE SEUNG []) 10 February 2005 (2005-02-10)

If not stated otherwise, the passages already cited in the search report are referred to.

D1 discloses a pair of primers (SEQ ID No 39 and SEQ ID No 40) designed in regions of the *PB1* gene with high homology. These primers are used in PCR reactions for identifying reassortant influenza viruses. Moreover, provides primer pairs designed in regions of the *PB2*, *PA*, *NP*, *NA*, *HA*, *M*, and *NS* genes with high homology. These pairs are used in combination in PCR reactions and allow the discrimination between reassortant viruses capable of being used as a live vaccine and various combinations of viruses.

The claimed oligonucleotide primer pair of claims 1 is a mere alternative to that described in D1 and does not have any particular advantage or additional property over the already known primers that target the *PB1* gene.

Hence, in view of D1, the subject matter of **claims 1** lacks inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

The same applies to **claims 9, 10-21, 36-39, 56-58** that do not satisfy the conditions of Article 33(3) PCT.

The embodiments disclosed in claims 2-8, 31-35, 51-55 are merely some of the several straightforward possibilities which the skilled person would select, in accordance with circumstances, without requiring any inventive skill.

Therefore, **claims 2-8, 31-35, 51-55** are not inventive (Article 56 EPC).

Possible steps after receipt of the international search report (ISR) and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA)

General information	<p>For all international applications filed on or after 01/01/2004 the competent ISA will establish an ISR. It is accompanied by the WO-ISA. Unlike the former written opinion of the IPEA (Rule 66.2 PCT), the WO-ISA is not meant to be responded to, but to be taken into consideration for further procedural steps. This document explains about the possibilities.</p>
Amending claims under Art. 19 PCT	<p>Within 2 months after the date of mailing of the ISR and the WO-ISA the applicant may file amended claims under Art. 19 PCT directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. The PCT reform of 2004 did not change this procedure. For further information please see Rule 46 PCT as well as form PCT/ISA/220 and the corresponding Notes to form PCT/ISA/220.</p>
Filing a demand for international preliminary examination	<p>In principle, the WO-ISA will be considered as the written opinion of the IPEA. This should, in many cases, make it unnecessary to file a demand for international preliminary examination. If the applicant nevertheless wishes to file a demand this must be done before expiry of 3 months after the date of mailing of the ISR/ WO-ISA or 22 months after priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 54bis PCT). Amendments under Art. 34 PCT can be filed with the IPEA as before, normally at the same time as filing the demand (Rule 66.1 (b) PCT).</p> <p>If a demand for international preliminary examination is filed and no comments/amendments have been received the WO-ISA will be transformed by the IPEA into an IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) which would merely reflect the content of the WO-ISA. The demand can still be withdrawn (Art. 37 PCT).</p>
Filing informal comments	<p>After receipt of the ISR/WO-ISA the applicant may file informal comments on the WO-ISA directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. These will be communicated to the designated Offices together with the IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) at 30 months from the priority date. Please also refer to the next box.</p>
End of the international phase	<p>At the end of the international phase the International Bureau of WIPO will transform the WO-ISA or, if a demand was filed, the written opinion of the IPEA into the IPRP, which will then be transmitted together with possible informal comments to the designated Offices. The IPRP replaces the former IPER (international preliminary examination report).</p>
Relevant PCT Rules and more information	<p>Rule 43 PCT, Rule 43bis PCT, Rule 44 PCT, Rule 44bis PCT, PCT Newsletter 12/2003, OJ 11/2003, OJ 12/2003</p>